



News Release

Media Relations Office

Washington, D.C.

Tel. 202.622.4000

For Release: 4/25/02

Release No: IR-2002-53

TAX FILING SEASON WAS ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS

WASHINGTON – The Internal Revenue Service announced that its just-completed tax season was a solid success, setting new records for processing returns and conducting electronic transactions.

“Our employees delivered a splendid filing season,” said IRS Commissioner Charles O. Rossotti. “We put America’s taxpayers first, processing more refunds than ever and for a record average amount.”

Among this year’s filing season record-setters were:

- **Electronic filing.** As of April 19, nearly 45.8 million taxpayers had e-filed, breaking the 40.2 million record for all of last year. Nearly 105,000 electronic return originators – up from 90,000 last year -- participated in IRS e-file, giving their clients the most accurate returns and the fastest possible refunds.
- **Home computer e-filing.** People filed more than 9.1 million returns from their home computers, a 34 percent increase over the total for all of last year.
- **Refunds.** The IRS has processed more than 77 million refunds, worth nearly \$150 billion – a record average of \$1,937.
- **Direct deposit.** Nearly 36.5 million taxpayers have used direct deposit for their refunds, surpassing the almost 34 million for all of 2001.
- **Electronic payments.** There were more than 626,000 e-payments, a rise of 8 percent over the same time last year. This includes 62,000 more electronic funds withdrawals and 15,000 fewer credit card charges.
- **Tax processing.** Workers at IRS Centers had processed more than 88.5 million returns as of April 19, the earliest that this total has been reached.
- **Web activity.** The IRS site at www.irs.gov remains one of the most used sites during the tax season, with 1.97 billion hits, a 28 percent increase from last year. The 78 million hits on April 15 set a new daily record for the site. Through March, the number of files downloaded topped 212 million, a 46 percent increase over the same period last year.

X X X

2002 FILING SEASON STATISTICS

Cumulative through the week ending 4/20/01 and 4/19/02

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Individual Income Tax Returns			
Total Receipts	115,867,000	117,592,000	1.5
Total Processed	83,621,000	88,544,000	5.9
E-filing Receipts:			
TOTAL	39,457,000	45,778,000	16.0
TeleFile (phone)	4,400,000	4,158,000	- 5.5
Computer	35,057,000	41,620,000	18.7
Tax Professionals	28,410,000	32,475,000	14.3
Self-prepared	6,647,000	9,145,000	37.6
Refunds Certified by the Martinsburg Computing Center:			
Number	72,866,000	77,199,000	5.9
Amount of principal	\$124.884 billion	\$149.562 billion	19.8
Average refund	\$1,714	\$1,937	13.0
Direct Deposit Refunds:			
Number	31,178,000	36,470,000	17.0
Amount	\$66.479 billion	\$85.390 billion	28.4
Average	\$2,132	\$2,341	9.8